

Science + Art = Holistic Thinking: An unorthodox approach to creating holistic thinkers in the Bachelor of Ecological Agriculture course offered through Charles Sturt University, Australia

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Abstract

While Western-based academics in agricultural faculties seem well versed in the pedagogy of training people to be reductionist thinkers, less developed is the process of developing holistic thinking. Holism and reductionism represent opposite aspects of one continuum and therefore it might be surmised that knowing one could lead quickly to an understanding of its opposite. The paper explores this tension and reveals an approach to education in the Bachelor of Ecological Agriculture course at Charles Sturt University, Australia, which has had a marked impact on students and their capacity to think holistically. The approach fosters the creation of three types of thinkers: 2nd Person, 1st Person, and 3rd Person. Of these, 2nd Person plays a most significant role.

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